

# Lancers move one step closer

State basketball tournament

By Don Lindstrom MAR 20 1982  
State Journal sports reporter

Madison La Follette continues to survive its basketball challengers and is now at the threshold of a second state championship.

Rick Olson and Steve Amundson combined for 46 points Friday to spark the Lancers to a come-from-behind 62-57 victory over Lake Geneva Badger and a berth in tonight's Class A final of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Boys' State Basketball Tournament.

A half-court pass from Olson to Tom Luksch, who moved in for a layup with just 12 seconds left, that provided the clincher before 13,294 spectators at the UW Field House.

The Big Eight Conference champions, now, with eight straight victories, carry a 10-4 record into the 7:45 p.m. title showdown against Stevens Point. La Follette won the 1977 crown.

As it turned out, Badger Coach Jerry Stelze was wise to the strategy which resulted in Luksch's basket and the resulting 60-55 La Follette lead, but was powerless to act in light of the fact his team was out of timeouts.

"I just knew what would happen when I saw La Follette bring up for that out-of-bounds play," Stelze said. "I saw a nightmare coming and couldn't do anything about it."

"We set it up to run someone out of

## LAKE GENEVA BADGER

Player	pts	reb	ast	stl	blk
John Hoen	15	4	2	1	0
Tim Schneider	12	5	2	1	0
Ed Rude	10	3	1	1	0
Mike Clifford	10	1	1	1	0
Steve Stahlak	10	3	1	1	0
Total	57	17	7	5	0

## MADISON LA FOLLETTE

Player	pts	reb	ast	stl	blk
Stuart Hagen	11	1	0	1	0
Steve Amundson	10	2	5	1	0
Tom Luksch	10	2	0	1	0
John Anderson	10	2	1	1	0
Rick Olson	10	2	1	1	0
Brian Hinesman	7	3	4	1	0
Greg Schmidt	2	0	0	0	1
David Thompson	1	0	1	0	2
Total	62	10	10	7	3

## Rebound data following last 10 minutes

Player	pts	reb	ast	stl	blk
Badger	10	10	17	14	—
La Follette	10	15	13	22	—

Field goal percentages — Badger 40%, La Follette 50%. Free throw percentages — Badger 77%, La Follette 74%. Turnovers — Badger 20, La Follette 10. Officials — Bob Cox, Jim Kerner, Ed 24, 11, 24.

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# Olson's 29 carry Lancers

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the pack," said La Follette Coach Pete Olson. "When an opponent gambles against us with a press, we're not afraid to try it. We've executed it before. This time we were fortunate to get the ball in the hole."

Luksch barreled full blast from the center line with Steve Stahlak on his heels. Luksch, however, won the race to the basket.

"I knew he (Stahlak) was there," acknowledged Luksch. "I could feel him, but I just had to make that shot."

Seven seconds later, Brian Kinzman capped the scoring with two free throws.

La Follette struggled early but, motivated by the shooting of Olson and Amundson, climbed from a 33-34 deficit to a 38-48 lead with 4 minutes, 7 seconds left in the game.

But even then La Follette wasn't assured of victory. Gary Stuch and Stahlak were instrumental in an eight-point Badger run that closed the gap to one, 58-57, before Luksch's effort.

"This was a tough, tough victory," said Coach Olson. "Our kids are a good second-half team, but we like to get ahead. I'd certainly like to change the script a bit and blow someone out in a change."

Rick Olson enjoyed his second straight 29-point performance — including 16 in the second-half rally —

while Amundson added 17. Badger's man on the inside, Tim Schneider, accounted for 33 — including 15 of 18 from the free-throw line — while Ruch had 12 and Stahlak 10. Mike Clifford was the only other Lake Geneva player to score, dropping in two points.

"Their game plan was to get it to Schneider and Ruch and get fouled," said Coach Olson. "We were in trouble and put them on the line too early. Badger is a heck of a competitive team."

Stelze agreed. "Schneider had a great tournament and Ruch is a super player. (He came into the game with 1406 points.) We played very well, just like we wanted."

Badger, with a patient, ball-control offense, enjoyed phenomenal shooting success hitting 25 of 38 shots for a 66 pace. Schneider was nine for 11, but it was his free-throw accuracy that scared the Lancers. They didn't want to put him on the line in the first place, but his inside moves drew fouls and he hit eight straight after an earlier run of seven.

La Follette, meanwhile, didn't shoot too shabbily, either, dropping in 26 of 50 for 52%. Olson, with his 21st game over the 20-point mark, connected on 12 of 24. He added five straight free throws, including four during the second-half rally. He did open the game with four missed field goals, but then hit five in a row.

"It was not a good start, for him, or

the team," Coach Olson admitted. "We expected to shoot better early. Badger deserves a lot of credit. They were patient and slowed it down a little more than we expected."

"I thought when we had a good lead we could ice it by getting the ball to Ruch for fouls. They were doing a good job of overplaying him. We went into a press and our defense really did the job in the fourth quarter."

Stelze said a big part of Badger's problem was Olson, saying, "They (the Lancers) may not be quite as quick as Brown Deer (Badger's quarterfinal opponent), but they fit us at our weakness."

The headline Olson provided was only part of it. Badger committed 20 turnovers, including a costly one following Luksch's layup. At least five others came on charging fouls which resulted from La Follette's defensive quickness.

It was an uphill scramble for La Follette. Amundson opened with a three-point play, but that was the Lancers' last lead until the end of the quarter when two quick jump shots by Olson gave them a 3-4 advantage.

Schneider was hot at the line in the second quarter, scoring 15 points, seven on free throws. Bob Dilorco gave La Follette a brief 20-19 lead and it was hit three times before Badger took a 20-24 halftime edge on Schneider's final two free throws.